

## ICAL NOTES.

Business among the retail piano dealers is at a standstill—almost nothing doing, and very little is expected until toward the latter part of next month. Many of the salesmen and clerks at the different houses are away on their vacations.

Mr. E. A. Potter, of Lyon, Potter & Co., is taking a trip through the lakes. He will sojourn in the Adirondacks, and will stop in New York on his return.

Some little time since the W. W. Kimball Company bought the building which they occupy on Wabash avenue of the Chicago Music Hall Association, but left a mortgage on the property of \$100,000. We now find by the county records of July 12 that this mortgage has been paid in full and a clear bill of ownership given to the Kimball Company. What a magnificent position the concern now occupies in every way! It owns every bit of the property it now occupies in this city, the immense factory—probably the largest in the world, its 80 feet frontage running back to the alley of the most valuable property on the avenue; it produces pianos each day by the score, reed organs, pipe organs, stools, scruffs; makes its own actions, casts its own plates, and is, in short, one of the most prosperous as well as one of the largest producers—if not the largest—in the whole universe.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Carlo H. Dittman, of the staff of the N. Y. Musical Courier, who died in New York on the 18th inst. Mr. Dittman had been connected with the Musical Courier for years, and was well known here. He was universally liked, and his death is sincerely mourned.

## Competition That Kills.

The recent legislative investigation into the condition of the "sweat shops" and tenement clothing makers in New York confirmed what has long been known by some and suspected by many. Long hours of work, meager and all but starvation wages, the worst conceivable sanitary conditions, constant danger of infection, child labor in its most distressing forms—such were some of the facts established.

It was shown that little girls who had never attended school worked ten hours a day for one dollar and twenty-seven cents a week; that over four thousand children under sixteen years of age were employed in the manufacture of clothing; that the certificates that they had reached the age of fourteen years—the age under which the New York law forbids the employment of children—were issued without regard to truth; that there was, in fact, a regular sale of such certificates; that in some districts almost the whole population lived in tenement houses; that clothing had been made under circumstances almost certain to convey the infection of terrible diseases to the wearers of it.

One woman witness said she worked on knee-trousers, and was paid ten cents a dozen. On each pair she had to make three buttonholes, sew on fifteen buttons, and turn up and sew the bottoms. By working from five o'clock in the morning until midnight, helped by her children, she could finish about three dozen a day. This whole family earned about two dollars a week.

The economic theory of free competition reaches its limit when public health is endangered, when children are robbed of education, when industrial slaves are pitted against each other in a race for existence under unendurable conditions.—Youth's Companion.

## Granger Shot at the Eyes.

One of these willing story-tellers told an interesting account of a queer adventure which happened to Detectives McCormick and Granger, who were attached to the Central Station at the time the notorious Bill Allen, the negro murderer, escaped. The detective received word that Bill Allen was hiding in a West Side barn. Both of them started for the place, and when they arrived there they were told the murderer could be found in the hayloft.

Granger, who was a single man, volunteered to go up first.

"You stay down here," he said to McCormick, "because you have a family and I have not."

He made his way to the hayloft, and in the dark he caught a sight of two eyes, which he supposed were the murderer's.

"Bill Allen," he yelled, "I don't want to take any chances with you; if you don't give yourself up I will shoot, and shoot to kill."

The eyes stared at Granger for a second, then suddenly he saw them move, and then they leaped to another corner. But Bill Allen did not open his mouth. There was the same stare and the gleaming eye, but not a sound.

The detective knew the negro was a desperate man. He again asked for a surrender, and receiving no reply fired. To his surprise the eyes disappeared, but there was no cry of pain. He made his way slowly to the place where he had seen the eyes and then lit a match. Imagine his surprise when instead of the murderer he found a cat in the last throes of death. He had hit the animal square between the eyes. His partner, McCormick, came up just as Granger pulled the cat out of the haystack.

Granger bought the drinks that day. —Chicago Tribune.

## Proof Positive.

Much has been written in ridicule of the wild answers given from the witness-stand, where all connected thoughts seem to escape some people. But strictly to the point was the evidence of a woman in Maine who was striving to prove an alibi for a boy in a horse-stealing case.

A witness testified that he had seen the boy at the village on that day, when the woman sprang from her seat, and cried:

"He wa'n't out, nuther! His pants was hangin' on the clo'es line all day!"

Theodore—Tell me, now, what is the meaning of the expression, "pulling your leg?" Richard—I can't tell you in so many words; but I will illustrate. You haven't \$10 about you that you can let me have for a week or two? Thanks. —Boston Transcript.

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HON. B. A. ECKHART.

The phenomenal growth of Chicago is due to the foresight and energy of its prominent citizens individually quite as much as to the progressive spirit of its inhabitants collectively. Among the leading business men of the World's Fair city few, if any, are more entitled to honor and public gratitude than the Hon. Bernard Albert Eckhart of the milling firm of Eckhart & Swan.

He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Sanitary District of Chicago, and as Chairman of the Finance Committee he has already rendered most valuable and unrelenting service.

His parents, Jacob and Eva (Roth) Eckhart, came to America from France while Bernard was a child, and settled in Vernon County, Wisconsin. Here he spent his youth. He received an elementary education at the public school, and after a three years' college course at Milwaukee graduated with honor. He began business in 1868 as clerk with the Eagle Milling Co. of Milwaukee, and was appointed their Eastern agent the following year. In 1870 he took charge of their Chicago house, which he bought out at the end of four years, and formed a partnership with Mr. James Swan.

Messrs. Eckhart & Swan erected extensive flour mills in 1884 at the corner of Canal and Fulton streets, which, with subsequent additions, are to-day the largest in Chicago, their daily output exceeding one thousand barrels, and their annual business three millions of dollars. An illustrated description of this mill was published in the January number of the American Miller. Their product is of the highest grade and finds ready sale, not only in the principal markets of the United States, but also in Europe.

Mr. Eckhart has all the requisites for a worker in the public interest, and in the various public offices held by him hitherto he has looked after the interests of the people as faithfully as if they were his own. Whatever comes under his immediate observation he thoroughly masters, and evidently acts on the principle that "whatsoever is worth doing at all is worth doing well." The waterway problems have occupied his attention for several years. In 1884 Mr. Eckhart was appointed a delegate to the National Waterway Convention at St. Paul, Minn., and he took a leading part in framing the drainage bill presented to the Thirty-sixth General Assembly, which finally became law.

As a politician Mr. Eckhart has acted with the Republican party ever since he cast his first vote, and in 1886 he was

elected by a very flattering vote in the First Senatorial district of the State. He won legislative laurels in connection with several matters of financial importance, and framed the law which provides for the refunding of the West Park bonds at a lower rate of interest than they bore originally. He drafted the bill providing for State inspection of building and loan associations, and made a gallant fight in the Senate for the reduction of the exorbitant telephone tolls. The fact that street railway corporations are now bound to secure the consent of a majority of frontage owners before they can put down rails on a street is due mainly to Senator Eckhart's unflinching zeal. He also was the author of the law suppressing "bucket shops." He declined the honor of a second nomination for the Senate, and he was nominated for the drainage trusteeship against his express wishes in 1891, but the ten thousand votes ahead of his ticket induced him to sacrifice his personal convenience and shoulder the responsibility.

The military question also occupied Mr. Eckhart's attention while in the Senate; he endeavored to secure a camp for the militia in the northern part of the State, but his bill was defeated in the lower house. He was more successful in his advocacy of the law ending jurisdiction to the United States Government to establish Fort Sheridan at Highland Park. He was also active in organizing the First Regiment, Illinois State Guards, and held a commission in that command for a number of years. In 1888 he was chosen a member of the State Republican Central Committee from the Third Congressional district. From 1888 until 1891 he served as a director of the Chicago Board of Trade—one of the largest and most influential bodies of business men in the world—and he has been a director of the Globe National Bank of Chicago since its organization.

Extensive traveling, both in Europe and America, has afforded Mr. Eckhart opportunities to take in the broadest views of humanity. He has the reputation of giving liberally in support of deserving charities, but always in a quiet and unostentatious way. His fortune is reported to exceed a million dollars. In 1874 Mr. Eckhart married Miss Katie L. Johnson, an accomplished young lady of St. Louis, Mo. Their union has been blessed by the advent of two sons and two daughters. Mr. Eckhart is treasurer of St. Paul's Reformed Episcopal Church, where he has been vestryman for many years.

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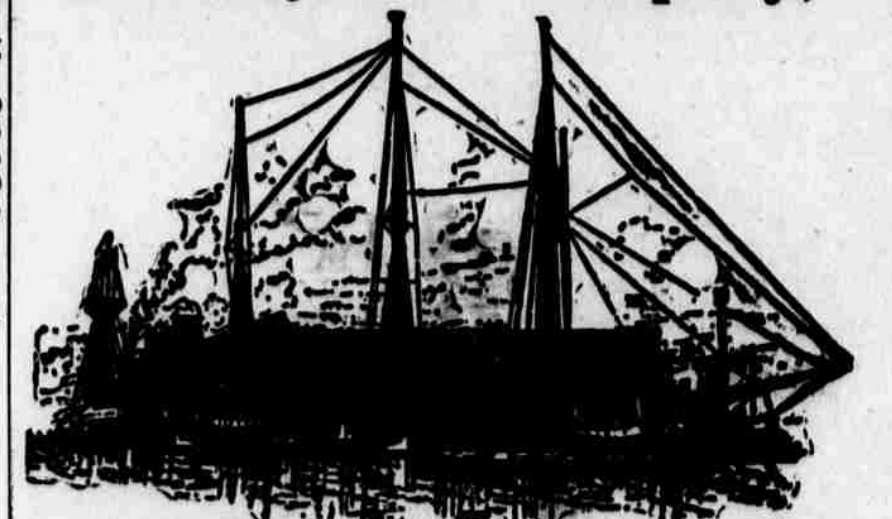
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